

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/526,046

Examiner

Bumsuk Won

Applicant(s)

NISHIMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 5/24/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/6/2007
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 5/24/2007 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the invention of a fluorescent lamp having a glass tube with a external tube diameter of 12-20 mm while the total length of the tube being 800 to 2500 mm, wherein plurality of bent portions and straight portions are formed within a same plane, and both end portions of straight tube portions being adjacent one another so as to form a polygonal shape, along with other claimed limitations. Claims 2-9 are allowed due to claim dependency.

Regarding independent claim 13, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the invention of a fluorescent lamp having a glass tube with a external tube diameter of 12-20 mm while the total length of the tube being 800 to 3000 mm, wherein plurality of bent portions and straight portions are formed within a same plane, and both end portions of straight tube portions being adjacent one another so as to form a polygonal shape, along with other claimed limitations. Claims 14 and 15 are allowed due to claim dependency.

Regarding independent claim 16, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the invention of a fluorescent lamp having a glass tube with a external tube diameter of 12-20 mm while the total length of the tube being 800 to 3000 mm, and a high frequency lighting circuit which lights the lamp with 10 kHz or higher, wherein plurality of bent portions and straight

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portions are formed within a same plane, and both end portions of straight tube portions being adjacent one another, along with other claimed limitations. Claims 14 and 15 are allowed due to claim dependency.

Regarding independent claim 17, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the invention of a method of manufacturing a fluorescent lamp having a glass tube with a external tube diameter of 12-20 mm while the total length of the tube being 800 to 3000 mm, wherein plurality of bent portions and straight portions are formed within a same plane, and both end portions of straight tube portions being adjacent one another so as to form a polygonal shape, along with other claimed limitations. Claim 18 is allowed due to claim dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shaffer (5,775,801) which is a cited prior art in the IDS discloses a lamp (figures 3A, 3B and 4) having multiple bent portions and straight portions with 10 mm tube diameter (column 4, line 46) with 2400 mm tube length (column 4, line 62). However, Shaffer does not teach or suggest the invention of a lamp having a glass tube with a external tube diameter of 12-20 mm, the tube having polygonal shape, and the pair of end portions having electrodes sealed therein, along with other claimed limitations.

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Young (4,337,414) which is a cited prior art in the IDS discloses a lamp (figures 2, 3, 5 and 7) having multiple bent portions and straight portions with 20mm tube diameter (column 11, line 34) with 710 mm tube length (column 11, line 33). However, Young does not teach or suggest the invention of a lamp having a glass tube with a external tube having polygonal shape, and the pair of end portions having electrodes sealed therein, along with other claimed limitations.

Abeywickrama (GB 2 137 017) which is a cited prior art in the IDS discloses a lamp (figures 1, 3 and 4) having multiple bent portions and straight portions to form a polygon with tube diameter being 18.2-18.6 mm and tube length being 720 mm. However, Abeywickrama does not teach or suggest the invention of a lamp having a glass tube having length being more than 800 mm, along with other claimed limitations.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bumsuk Won whose telephone number is 571-272-2713. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimeshkumar Patel can be reached on 571-272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



/Bumsuk Won/

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2879



**JOSEPH WILLIAMS
PRIMARY EXAMINER**